

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated June 22, 2005.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp).

Regarding claim 1, and claims dependent thereon, the examiner relies on Snipp (col. 3, lines 51-67; col. 4, lines 1-18 & col. 5, line 64 - col. 6, line 20) as disclosing the elements of claim 1. Snipp, at these locations, discloses a method wherein an application program initiates a printing request to print a document on a remote printer. The application program calls, through the GDI, a graphics engine (section of code) that converts GDI calls to device driver interface (DDI) calls. These calls are then passed to a local print driver, which communicates with a local spooler. The local spooler then hands the job off to a remote spooler and print processor. These remote devices render the print job and send the rendered job to a remote printer.

Snipp's method requires a user to select the destination printer from a UI. The print job is then sent to that originally-selected printer through both local and remote print system components. Other than known conversion processes, such as those performed using print drivers, print processors, a GDI and a graphics engine; the print job is not modified. The content, destination and format of the print job are not modified. The print job is simply converted to a language understandable by the printer.

Embodiments of the present invention, as claimed in these rejected claims, comprise methods for modifying a print job so that the job can be printed on a different device or multiple devices. These methods also comprise logic for selecting one or more printers that are capable of printing a print job and for determining the availability of these printers for printing.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly claim the printer selection process.

Claim 1 now comprises the element of “selecting at least one of said at least one printer by comparing said printer data with parameters of said print task.” As Snipp does not disclose any automated selection of a printer by a print system, claim 1, and claims 2-10, which are dependent thereon, are believed to be allowable in their amended form.

Regarding claim 11, and claims 12-19, which are dependent thereon, the examiner cites Snipp (col. 5, lines 45-67) as disclosing “determining whether at least one remote device is suitable for printing said print task.” This reference, at this location, discloses a GetPrinter() function, which determines what print driver to use and a GetPrinterData() function, which allows a device driver to remotely obtain configuration information. There is also some discussion of a DeviceCapabilities API, which discovers device attributes.

Claim 11 has been amended to more particularly point out the differences between Snipp and these claimed embodiments of the present invention. Claim 11 now comprises the elements of *selecting* a remote printer that is *available*. Snipp does not disclose any method for automatically selecting a remote device or determining whether a device is available. Accordingly, claim 11, and claims 12-19, dependent thereon, are believed to be allowable in their amended form.

Regarding claim 20 and claim 21, dependent thereon, claim 20 has been amended to comprise the elements of “determining a device requirement of said print task,” “sending said device requirement to a remote print system component” and “checking whether at least one remote device is suitable for printing said print task based on said device requirement and remote device availability.” Snipp does not disclose a method of checking whether a device is suitable

for a print task of determining the availability of a remote device. Accordingly, claims 20 and 21 are believed to be allowable as amended.

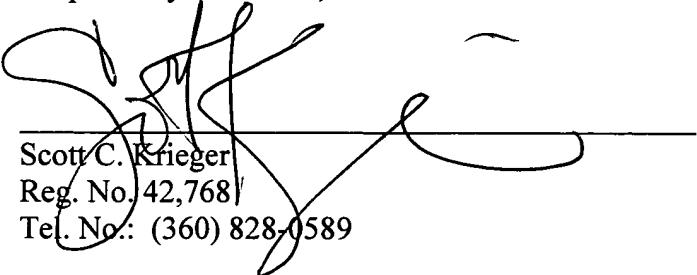
Regarding claims 22-23 & 25, each of these claims teach a method of reconfiguring a print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on printers capable of printing the print task. Snipp teaches only a method for using a DerMode structure which provides the “user’s choice of printer options, such as the number of copies, orientation, form and the like.” (col. 6, lines 1-20). Snipp does not teach a method of reconfiguring a print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on printers capable of printing the print task.

In relation to claims 22 & 24, Snipp does not teach the element of using a print system component to search or check for remote printing devices that are capable of printing a print task. The methods disclosed in Snipp all have a user-selected print device. These methods do not allow print system components to reconfigure print tasks or select/determine a suitable print device destination. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims does not present a *prima facie* case of anticipation and applicant believes these claims 22-25 are allowable in their current form. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw this rejection.

Appl. No. 09/683,667
Amdt. dated September 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 22, 2005

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott C. Krieger
Reg. No. 42,768
Tel. No.: (360) 828-0589